Funds allocation for upliftment of tribal communities

2457. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds allocated to States for upliftment of tribal communities have been diverted for other purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to lay down strict norms for timely spending of funds earmarked by Government to States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) In the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 1998, it has *inter-alia* been brought out that scrutiny of the records in selected districts of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal and Daman and Diu, revealed that funds aggregating Rs. 85.88 crore which pertain to Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan were diverted to other schemes/ activities. These observations are based on sample check of documents for the period 1992—98 of the Ministry and the implementing departments and agencies of 17 States and one U.T.

(c) and (d) In order to ensure timely utilization of funds provided for the welfare and upliftment of Scheduled Tribes, the following measures have been taken:

(i) Utilization Certificates for earlier releases are insisted upon as a pre-requisite for further release of funds.

(ii) Periodic progress reports regarding the status of implementation of schemes are obtained.

(iii) Central Government officers visit the States/U.Ts. to ascertain on the spot the progress of implementation of schemes.

(iv) Meetings/Conferences are convened at Central level with

the State Secretaries of Tribal Welfare to ensure timely submission of proposals for release of funds and to speed up implementation of schemes.

Special welfare grants for tribals

2458. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central Assistance given in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu as special welfare grants for tribals under first proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution during the last three years; and

(b) how they have utilized?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) During the last three years, the following amount has been released to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu under first proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution.

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Year		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Andhra Pradesh	453.50	607.00	613.86
Orissa	657.00	514.00	1027.93
Tamil Nadu	121.00	42.00	83.93

(b) These funds are utilized by the State Governments for raising the level of administration in Scheduled Areas by creation of infrastructure like roads and bridges, irrigation, communication and drinking water facilities etc. and for the development and welfare of Scheduled Tribes including establishment of model residential schools for Scheduled Tribes.